

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for generating a survey for a computer system on a network, the method comprising the steps of:

storing an HTML formatted survey document on a computer-readable medium of a first computer system, the survey document having questions and answers in a certain format, wherein the questions and answers are for delivery in the survey document over a network to a second computer system and wherein the survey document is for presenting to a user by the second computer system i) ones of the survey document questions and ii) answers from the survey document for selecting on the second computer by the user of the second computer, wherein according to the certain format of the survey document, the questions and answers are defined as XML data elements included in the survey document as strings of text surrounded by text markups, including tags describing the data elements and attributes defining associations among the questions and answers, including associations such that ones of the questions branch from ones of the answers; [[and]]

storing a document type definition file on the computer-readable medium of the first computer system, the document type definition file being for delivery over the network to the second computer system, wherein programming instructions include instructions for causing the second computer system to validate the XML data elements responsive to the document type definition file; and

storing an HTML formatted document and programming instructions on a computer-readable medium of the first computer system, the programming instructions being written in an object oriented, interpreted, dynamic programming language and the HTML formatted document and programming instructions being for delivery over the network to the second computer system, the programming instructions including:

first instructions for receipt and execution as an applet in a browser of the second computer system, wherein the execution of the first instructions as an applet causes the second computer system to parse the data elements from the survey document into data arrays comprising a hash table and having cross-references defining the associations among questions and answers;

second instructions for receipt and execution as an applet in a browser of the second computer system, wherein the execution of the second instructions as an applet causes the second computer system to display in a browser on a user interface of the second computer system a first set of one or more of the questions and corresponding, selectable answers and causes the second computer system to then

repeatedly select and display additional sets of one or more of the questions and corresponding, selectable answers, wherein the repeated selecting and displaying of the additional sets of one or more of the questions and corresponding, selectable answers is by the second computer and not the first computer and is responsive to answers selected by the user on the second computer, and wherein the repeated selecting by the second computer system is further responsive to ones of the cross-references of the data arrays arising from the second computer system parsing the data elements from the survey document; and

third instructions for receipt and execution as an applet in a browser of the second computer system, wherein the execution of the third instructions as an applet causes the second computer to return survey results to the first computer system as an XML formatted answer response document defining the answers selected by the user as data elements included in the survey document as strings of text surrounded by text markups, including tags, wherein the text markups describe the data elements.

2.-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[5]] 1 wherein the programming language includes Java.

7.-21. (Canceled)

22. (New) A computer implemented method for generating a survey, the computer implemented method comprising:

storing an XML survey document in a memory of a first computer system, wherein the XML survey document comprises a plurality of questions and corresponding answer options, a root node and a plurality of sub-nodes branching from the root node, wherein each question and corresponding answer options are defined as XML data elements, wherein attributes define the associations among the XML data elements and define question branches;

sending programming instructions to a second computer system for execution as an applet in a browser of the second computer system and a document type definition file, wherein the execution of the programming instructions as an applet causes the second computer system to parse the data elements into a plurality of data arrays using the document type definition file, wherein each data array in the plurality of data arrays comprises a hash table and cross-references defining associations among each question and corresponding answer options in the plurality of questions and corresponding answer options and identifying additional questions and corresponding answer options;

providing a question and corresponding answer options, from the plurality of questions and corresponding answer options, to a user on the second computer system;

receiving a user input comprising user selected answer options responsive to the provided question;

traversing the each data array to determine whether the user selected answer options identifies additional questions and corresponding answer options; and

responsive to determining that the user selected answer options identifies the additional questions and corresponding answer options, presenting the additional questions and corresponding answer options to the user on the second computer system.

23. (New) The computer implemented method of claim 22 wherein each sub-node in the plurality of the sub-nodes comprises attributes defining categories for each question and corresponding answer options in the plurality of questions and corresponding answer options.

24. (New) The computer implemented method of claim 22 further comprising:

generating a document object model data structure responsive to receiving the user input in response to presenting a question and corresponding answer options to the user on the second computer, wherein the document object model data structure is stored in the memory of the first computer system;

generating a responding survey document comprising the user inputted answers; and
responsive to receiving the responding survey document, storing the responding survey document in the memory of the first computer system.